

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are currently pending. Claims 1, 15-16 and 18-19 have been amended herein. Support for the amendments is found at page 34-35, tables 1 and 2 and accompanying text, of the specification.

Applicant's Response to the Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Kozawa et al.* (US Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0157801). In response thereto, applicants have amended the independent claims to include the limitation that the claimed resist pattern thickening material is free of crosslinking agents. Applicants respectfully submit that the cited prior art does not contain this limitation. Therefore, the claims, as amended, are not anticipated.

Kozawa et al. requires a crosslinking agent as an essential element. Specifically, as disclosed at paragraphs [0047] and [0048] of the reference, both taught embodiments require a crosslinking agent. Paragraphs [0075] to [0081] disclose the utilization of the crosslinking agents within the invention of *Kozawa et al.* Finally, as set forth at pages 15-17 of *Kozawa et al.* the claims are only directed to embodiments which include crosslinking agents.

This is contrary to the present invention which teaches a resist pattern thickening material which is free of crosslinking agents. Specifically, as illustrated in Example 1, pages 33 to 36 of the specification, the resist pattern thickening materials were prepared with a resin, surfactant and an additive (only if required). See specifically Table 1. As set forth in table 2, the present invention has the effect of thickening a resist pattern, i.e., reducing an initial pattern size, and improving an etching resistance without containing a crosslinking agent.

The invention of *Kozawa et al.*, which requires crosslinking agents as a component, is not capable of achieving the present invention as amended. The present invention as amended

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excludes the use of crosslinking agents. Applicants further submit that the present invention would not be obvious either as Kozawa clearly teaches that crosslinking agents are required.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
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